

A new species of the genus *Mahanta* Moore (Lepidoptera, Limacodidae) from China

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Abstract *Mahanta yoshimotoi* sp. nov. is described and illustrated from Nanling National Nature Reserve in Guangdong Province, South China. The new species is similar to *Mahanta leworthyi* Holloway from Borneo, Sumatra and Thailand, but can be distinguished by characteristics of aedeagus and juxta of the male genitalia.

Key words Limacodidae, *Mahanta*, new species, Nanling National Nature Reserve, China.

The genus *Mahanta* was established by Moore in 1879 and exclusively distributed in Southeastern Asia. Three species of this small genus were known so far (Yoshimoto, 1995): *Mahanta quadrilinea* Moore, 1879, type species of the genus, from Darjeeling, India and China; *Mahanta leworthyi* Holloway, 1986 from Borneo, Sumatra and Thailand, and *Mahanta kawadai* Yoshimoto, 1995 from Taiwan. On the wing markings, all the members of this genus are very similar in appearance, but easily differ from one another by the male genitalia and divided into two distinct groups. In China, a *Mahanta* species has long been known as *quadrilinea* from Sichuan and Yunnan Provinces (Cai, 1978) and from Taiwan (Inoue, 1992), but the identification of the continental specimens has remained unchecked even after separation of *M. leworthyi* and *M. kawadai*. During our survey on early spring moths in Nanling National Nature Reserve in N. Guangdong, one species of the genus was collected and identified as a new species. Here we give the descriptions as follows.

Mahanta yoshimotoi sp. nov. (Fig. 1)

Male. Expanse 47–48 mm, length of forewing 22–23 mm.

Antennae slightly bipectinated, gray yellow. Labial palpus stout, densely covered with brown yellow hairs. Eyes rounded, dark brown. Head and thorax white gray dorsally with dark dorsomeson except for tegula with the posterior portion red brown. Abdomen brown yellow. Legs densely covered with long brown yellowish hairs except for femora and tibia white gray out-laterally.

Forewing triangular, with the apex slightly beaked. Upperside red-yellow with creamish-white scales at the anal region and jugal region, discal and postdiscal lines dark brown, slant and parallel. Cilia brown with silvery white distal end. Hindwing rounded, red-yellow with long scales red-yellow in the anal region and jugal region. Cilia yellow brown. Underside of both wings bright yellow brown.

Male genitalia. Uncus thumb-shaped, shallowly divided. Gnathos broad, m-shaped in posterior view. Juxta n-shaped, asymmetrical with long and slim distal end. Saccus short and broad. Valva broadened, sacculus with some distinct splinters. Aedeagus rhombus, compressed bilaterally with a pointed projection ventrally.

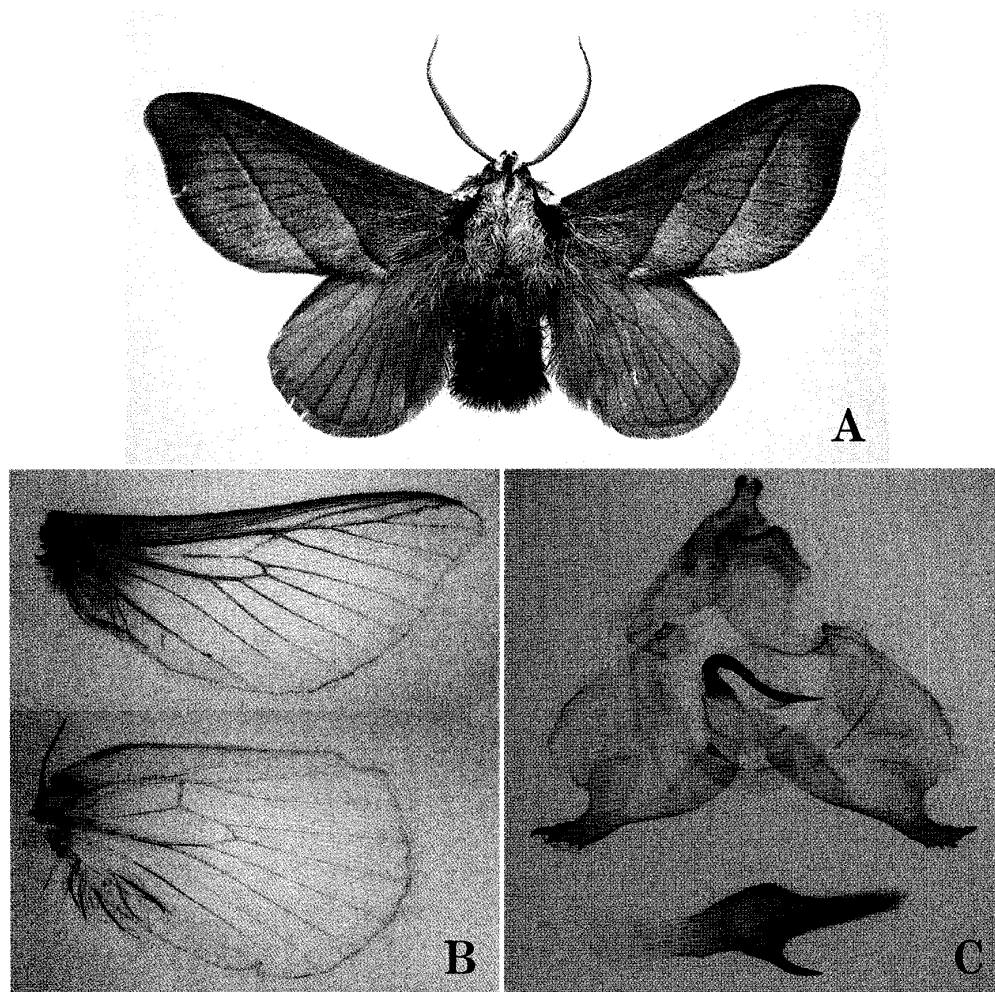


Fig. 1. *Mahanta yoshimotoi* sp. n. A: Male, upperside, holotype. B: Venation, paratype. C: Male genitalia, paratype.

Holotype ♂, Nanling National Nature Reserve, 950 m altitude, 24°94'N, 112°97'E, secondary forest, 21–24. ii. 2003, Ruyuan County, Guangdong Province, China. Paratypes 3 ♂, the same data as holotype. All the type specimens are deposited in the Laboratory of Insect Ecology, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou, China.

Female. Unknown.

This new species is closely related to *Mahanta leworthyi* Holloway in having a ventral projection on aedeagus, but easily differs from the latter by the following points. Juxta n-shaped, asymmetrical, slightly thinner and longer; sacculus longer, with distinct minor spines; aedeagus with ventral process slightly longer.

Habitat. The species was collected along a road in the secondary forest.

Etymology. The species is named after Mr H. Yoshimoto, Tokyo, who supplied us with valuable reference of the genus.

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摘 要

中国産オオイラガの1新種 (王 敏・黄 国華)

長く1属1種とされてきたオオイラガ属 (*Mahanta* Moore, 1879) は、最近になって2種が分離され、3種を擁するよくまとまった属として知られる。中国からは、最近の2種の分離前に、模式種 *M. quadrilinea* Moore, 1879 が図示、記録されていた。今春私達は、中国広東省の南嶺自然保護区でこの属の4♂を得たので、改めて交尾器を解剖したところ、既知3種のいずれとも異なる新種であることが分かったので、*Mahanta yoshimotoi* Wang & Huang として記載した。この新種は、*M. leworthyi* Holloway, 1986 に最も近縁であるが、♂交尾器 *juxta* に生じる突起の形態が全く異なること、*aedeagus* の腹方の突起がやや長い点で区別できる。なお、従来中国から *quadrilinea* として記録されているものがすべてこの新種かどうかは未調査である。

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